

**Subject: Opposition to raised bill SB184.**

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives:

I am writing to oppose S.B. No. 184 (RAISED) AN ACT EXTENDING THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2022, SEVERAL CHANGES REGARDING ELECTION ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF COVID-19 AND CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.

As an immigrant, I had always admired the democracy of the United States. Citizens have the right to elect their political leaders, powers are transferred peacefully, and the society is maintained stable and prosperous. Since I first moved to the US, I have opportunity to observe the system physically in-person, and I have found one fundamental base for this democracy: TRUST. People may have different interests, different opinions. It's the trust to the system that brings people together to make decisions, openly and transparently. I saw on the voting dates that people casted their ballots under monitoring eyes, I saw people counting votes while witnessed by volunteers and observers, and I saw one of candidates claimed victory, and others conceded and give congratulations.... everything is public and no room is left for doubt.

Unfortunately, in the year of 2020, for the first time I saw a tragedy of US democracy. People began to doubt, trust was undermined, and the society was shaken. One of the reasons was said that too much absentee ballots messed up the results. Absentee voting, different from open and public in-person voting, lacks adequate public tracking and monitoring mechanism, and therefore leads to skepticism and critique. If this bill was passed, I can expect that the trust in US democracy will be further undermined, people will be more skeptical and critical to the voting system, and the society will have to face more serious situation than what happened in the early 2021. It is too much a price that we should not pay.

It is always more difficult to rebuild the people's trust than simply to destroy it. However we have enough reasons to take trouble to do it. First good thing to do is to strictly limit absentee voting to as needed.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to vote against SB No. 184.

Thank you.

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